

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 MCT-01 /101 W
-----058438 101718Z /45

O 101640Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8614

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2344

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINR, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN COUP PLOT TRIAL: SECOND DAY

REF: (A) 77 KINSHASA A-130 (B) KINSHASA 2299

1. SUMMARY: TWELVE ADDITIONAL DEFENDANTS GAVE TESTIMONY DURING THE
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SECOND DAY OF THE COUP PLOT TRIAL MARCH 9. PROCEEDINGS DID LITTLE TO
ADVANCE THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE THAT THERE WAS A LARGE-SCALE CONSPIRACY
TO OVERTHROW THE MOBUTU REGIME. ZAIRIAN TELEVISION BEGAN BROADCASTING
FILMED PORTIONS OF THE TRIAL LATE IN THE
EVENING OF MARCH 9. THE ISSUE OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLOT WAS
NOT RAISED DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE TRIAL. END SUMMARY

2. THE GOVERNMENT'S CHARGES AGAINST ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS, CIT. KUDIAKUBANZA, WERE REASONABLY CONVINCING. KUDIAKUBANZA IS ACCUSED OF HAVING PASSED MONEY TO MAJOR KALUME, THE ALLEGED PLOT ORGANIZER, TO ASSIST KALUME'S PREPARATION OF THE COUP. THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE AGAINST SEVEN OTHER DEFENDANTS APPEARED BASED ON ASSUMPTION OF GUILT BY ASSOCIATION WITH KALUME AND WAS COMPARATIVELY UNPERSUASIVE. THREE DEFENDANTS WERE CHARGED WITH NEGLIGENCE IN THE TRANSFER OF THE THREE CASES OF GRENADES WHICH FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN FIRST DAY'S TESTIMONY (REFTEL). THE REMAINING DEFENDANT WAS ACCUSED MERELY OF HAVING ARRANGED A MEETING BETWEEN KALUME AND ANOTHER DEFENDANT.

3. THE NAME OF FORMER EXILED POLITICIAN KAMITATU (REF A) WAS MENTIONED BY THE PROSECUTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHARGES AGAINST CIT. BURIABU, BUT THE TRIBUNAL DID NOT ESTABLISH CONVINCINGLY THAT BURIABU HAD ARRANGED MEETINGS BETWEEN KAMITATU AND TWO OF THE PRINCIPAL DEFENDANTS, KALUME AND MATANDA (REF B).

4. ZAIRIAN TELEVISION BROADCAST LENGTHY PORTIONS OF THE MARCH 8 PROCEEDINGS DURING THE LATE EVENING OF MARCH 9. ALTHOUGH UNIMPRESSIVE BY COMPARISON WITH THE RECENT LIVE TELEVISION COVERAGE IN BRAZZAVILLE OF THE FULL PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRIAL OF THE ALLEGED ASSASSINS OF FORMER CONGOLESE PRESIDENT NGOUABI, THE FILMED EXCERPTS WERE A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT OVER ZAIRIAN COVERAGE OF THE TRIAL OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA LAST YEAR.

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7. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLOT DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE TRIAL.
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Message Attributes

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